

Human Services Committee  
May 17, 2018, 8 AM

**Attendance**

Beth Kerrigan, Chair  
Ben Wenograd  
Chris Barnes  
Shari Cantor, by telephone

**Staff**

Matt Hart, Town Manager  
Helen Rubino-Turco, Social Services & Leisure Services Director  
Martha Church, Library Services Director  
Astrid Calderon, Social Services Manager

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Beth Kerrigan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM
2. **Library Services Updates:** Recent and upcoming programs at the Library include the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual How-To Festival held at the end of March which featured over forty community members sharing expertise with more than 3,000 attendees; the West Hartford Reads annual author event held to be held October 4, 2018 featuring former US Poet Laureate Billy Collins; the new One World current events discussion series funded by a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; and Faxon Fun, a library program for school-age children, to be held this summer at the Faxon Branch in conjunction with the summer meals program for children. Faxon Fun is also funded by HFPG.

Since the addition of Hoopla, a new downloadable platform offering e-books, e-audiobooks, movies, TV series, comic books and music, circulation of downloadable materials has increased nearly 30% over the previous year. Library staff will be promoting all three downloadable collections at the Library Booth at Celebrate West Hartford.

After years of declining membership, the Friends of the West Hartford Library has been dissolved as a 501(c)3 organization. Instead of paying annual dues, anyone who actively volunteers at the libraries is now considered a "Friend" and monies raised in support of the libraries through volunteer efforts or donations will be held and administered by the Library Foundation which is a separate 501(c)3.

The Faxon Library Community Room and lower level staff areas flooded during torrential rains on April 16. Plant and Facilities staff were on-site almost immediately and were able to restore these spaces for use in just under three weeks.

3. **Social and Leisure Services Updates:** A CT Department of Transportation grant for the *Dial-A-Ride Extended Medical Access Program (MAP)* of \$62,460 was cut for the next fiscal year. Since 2012, this special annual grant provided MAP rides to approximately 30 residents at two retirement communities, based on available funding from CT DOT. These residents now have other options, including use of their facilities' van service, ITN, and other sources. To absorb the budget impact, the DAR Extended MAP program at the two retirement facilities will cease. Social

Services has worked closely with the affected residents and facility managers to ensure that transportation needs are met. The regular Dial-A-Ride program, which provides affordable transportation for medical appointments, grocery shopping and other trips to West Hartford seniors and those with a qualified disability, will continue without interruption.

The Town receives an annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD, and one qualified sub-recipient organization applied for funding for an ADA upgrade. The Town was recently informed that next year's CDBG grant is \$967,061, which represents an increase of \$87,897 from what was estimated in the FY 2018-2019 budget. The additional funds will be allocated to public facility improvements.

Rockledge Grille is expected to be open by late May but may occur in early June. The deck renovation is nearly complete.

The Bridge Family Center contract is updated and signed every two years; we are finalizing the new contract this month. Also, we continue to work on an ordinance to allow limited signage in public parks and playfields. This has been requested for years by youth sports leagues. Leisure Services remains a careful steward of public land. Therefore, any ordinance would be accompanied by restrictions tied to field permits issued to youth sports leagues.

Celebrate West Hartford will be held on Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10. The second annual Park-to-Park Walk by the Friends of Fernridge Park will take place June 16. Feast on the Farm will be held Friday, September 28 at Westmoor Park.

4. Location of Next Meeting: The committee will consider holding its June meeting at Rockledge Golf Club to review renovations at the Clubhouse and other golf operations.
5. **Adjournment:** Chairperson Kerrigan adjourned the meeting at 9:00 AM.